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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Factors Hindering Polish Coal Mining, Situation
in the Katowice Area

DATE D.STR. 21 Apr 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

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1. One of the greatest difficulties with which Polish coal production must cope is the insufficient flow of young labor to the mines. [Following dates through mid-Jan 54]
2. The authorities are anxious about this shortage. Throughout 1953 a great campaign was organized by the ZP, the ZMP and the Trade Unions, to encourage young men to seek employment in the mines. The campaign was backed by gifts. The miners were promised priority in the state holiday scheme, in the purchase of radio sets, motorcycles, bicycles, etc; free uniforms, etc. Official propaganda presented the occupation of a miner as among the most honored, enjoying high privileges.
3. The aims of this campaign were not achieved. This was shown in the reports presented at a confidential conference (not advertised in the press or radio) which took place in the Party Committee of Katowice on 4 and 5 Jan 54. The conference was attended by the following persons:
 Mieczyslaw Lasa, Vice-Minister of the Mining Industry.
 Mikhail Talyzin, Soviet Consul in Katowice.
 Igor Komukin, Soviet attaché at the consulate for problems of coal production.
 J. Olaszewski, 1st Secretary of the Katowice County Party Committee.
 S. Ciolkowski, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Miners' Union.
 J. Koszutski, Chairman of the Katowice County National Council.
 Teofil Nowicki, Secretary of the 'Vocational Active' in the General Secretariat of the ZMP.
4. The following facts emerged in these reports:
 a. The target of ZMP propaganda in 1953 was to direct to the mines 22 young ZMP members for every 100 seeking employment. But the numbers of those who actually applied for miners' jobs never exceeded three or four in every hundred (at the beginning and the end of 1953, only two in every hundred).

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- b. Three hundred and 76 ZMP members applied, through the ZMP, for admittance to the Mining Academy in Krakow; before the applications were processed, 191 withdrew.
- c. Only about 17% of the young miners who have recently reported to work have applied for membership in the Miners' Union. This may be proof that most do not look upon their present jobs as permanent.
- d. The statistics of absenteeism, faulty work and "hooliganism" drawn by primary Party Organizations in many mines, show that the percentage of these shortcomings is highest in the youngest and newest group of miners. Such results were reported from the mines of Psadowski, Bytom, Bobrek, Czeladz, Kamisierz, Rydułtowy, Stalin, Niska and Blask.
- e. The methods used toward new young miners by primary Party Organizations in the mines are much at fault. Party activists, thinking the youngsters most susceptible to propaganda, do their utmost to transform them into stakhanovites, instead of leaving them in peace to find their own feet. Many young men rebel against this treatment and grow disappointed with their jobs.
5. "ZMP Secretary Nowicki stressed the above points. Appropriate resolutions were taken to improve the work of primary Party Organizations and to develop recruiting propaganda.
6. "The lack of young newcomers to the industry is not the only reason for difficulties in coal production. Old experienced miners and good engineers are unable to obtain desired results, because of the bad organization of work in the mines. The specific phenomenon of Communist-ruled Poland - escape from responsibilities - plays an important role here. The responsibility is divided between many bodies: management of the mine itself, various departments of the management of the respective mining enterprise, Trade Unions, all sorts of inspectors and supervisors. Every one of these persons or bodies avoids making decisions, so as not to incur criticism; this paralyzes all initiative to introduce rational changes in the methods of production.
7. In the new pits, the new Polish and Soviet machinery has caused difficulties. There is a shortage of qualified personnel to operate these machines. In many machines serious construction faults appear. In consequence - especially in the machines transporting coal to the surface - conveyor belts and chains often break or stop. The rhythm of transport does not correspond to the rhythm of mining underground. Similar bugs occur in other stages of work.
8. "The new pits get the worst deal for other reasons. It is the accepted practice to direct to the new pits a part of the personnel from other pits of the same enterprise. Every management strives to use this opportunity for ridding itself of its least skilled, physically weakest personnel. The result is that the statistics for absenteeism, lateness and sickness in the new pits are worse than in others.
9. "In late 1953 the greatest delays in production were reported in the following coal mines in Silesia which all are now operating newly opened pits:
- Boleslaw Chrobry
Thorez
Mieszko
Victoria
Nowa Ruda
- In these mines a number of managers, engineers and brigade leaders were charged with personal responsibility for the delays."

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